

**THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY
BUREAU ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 20.6.4 NMAC – STANDARDS FOR INTERSTATE
AND INTRASTATE SURFACE WATERS**

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED
REVISIONS TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to continue to comment on draft revisions to 20.6.4 NMAC – Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters. States are required by the federal Clean Water Act to review water quality standards at least once every three years. Following this initial public participation process the State will hold a public hearing to review applicable standards and, as appropriate, to modify and adopt standards.

The public comment period on these draft revisions began February 21, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. MST and will now end on May 7, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. MDT. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record should be submitted in writing to the SWQB to the address below, attention John Montgomery (if possible, please submit an electronic copy as well; the SWQB will provide a confirmation of receipt for electronic mail submissions).

Some of the revisions being considered include re-organizing the document to make it easier for the user to read, updating various water quality criteria in accordance with newly published U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidance, reclassifying various designated uses, and updating total dissolved solids (TDS) and other criteria to be more protective of the livestock watering, irrigation, and wildlife habitat designated uses.

For additional information, contact John Montgomery, Standards Coordinator, SWQB, at (505) 476-3671, or e-mail: john_montgomery@nmenv.state.nm.us; or Stephanie Stringer, Outreach Coordinator, SWQB, at (505) 827-0418, or e-mail: stephanie_stringer@nmenv.state.nm.us; or mail either at P. O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. The draft revisions to the surface water quality standards are available upon request and are posted on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website, and can be downloaded from: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/>.

PLEASE POST AND/OR FORWARD TO INTERESTED PARTIES